Claims

What is claimed is:

1   1. A system for generating a report by a reporting tool of a SAP business information system

2   using data included within an Aspect file, said system comprising a non-SAP bridge program

3   adapted to generate the Aspect file through use of data derived from a dataset and to transmit the

4   Aspect file to the SAP business information system.

1   2. The system of claim 1, wherein the dataset is a non-SAP-formatted dataset.

1   3. The system of claim 1, wherein the dataset is a SAP-formatted dataset.

1   4. The system of claim 1, wherein the SAP business information system comprises an SAP

2   Executive Information System (EIS).

1   5. A system for generating a report by a reporting tool of a SAP business information system

2   using data included within an Aspect file having rollup records, said system comprising a non-

3   SAP bridge program adapted to generate the Aspect file through use of data derived from a

4   dataset and to transmit the Aspect file to the SAP business information system, said dataset

5   having a keygroup, wherein to generate the Aspect file includes to roll up a portion of the dataset

6   with respect to the keygroup, wherein each rollup record has a rollup field and a quantity field,

7   wherein the rollup field stores a rollup keyvalue of the keygroup, and wherein the quantity field

8   stores the number of dataset records that have the same rollup keyvalue.

1   6. The system of claim 5, wherein the bridge program is further adapted to cause the rollup

2   records in the generated Aspect file to be sorted with respect to the keygroup.

1   7. The system of claim 5, wherein the dataset is a non-SAP-formatted dataset.

1   8. The system of claim 5, wherein the dataset is a SAP-formatted dataset.

1   9. The system of claim 5, wherein the bridge program is further adapted to generate a trace file

2   that includes a representative rollup keyvalue of the keygroup and a pointer that points to a

3   portion of the dataset, said portion being correlated with the representative rollup keyvalue.

1   10. The system of claim 5, wherein the SAP business information system comprises an SAP

2   Executive Information System (EIS).

1   11. The system of claim 5, wherein the bridge program is further adapted to identify select

2   records of the dataset in accordance with at least one selection rule applied to the dataset, and

3   wherein the portion of the dataset includes the select records so identified.

1   12. The system of claim 11, wherein to identify the select records includes to accept as input a

2   first date and a second date, wherein the first date is earlier than the second date, and wherein the

3   selection rules do not permit identifying as a select record any record of the dataset having an

4   effective date that is earlier than the first date or later than the second date.

1   13. The system of claim 5, wherein the dataset is selected from the group consisting of a table, a

2   spreadsheet, and a combination thereof.

1   14. The system of claim 5, wherein the report relates to procurement data, and wherein the rollup

2   records include the procurement data.

1   15. The system of claim 14, wherein the procurement data is selected from the group consisting

2   of purchase order data, invoice data, and a combination thereof.

1   16. A system for generating a report by a reporting tool of a SAP business information system

2   using and combining data included within N Aspect files A_1, A_2, ..., A_N respectively having

3   rollup records $[R]_1$, $[R]_2$, ..., $[R]_N$, said N at least 2, said system comprising at least one non-SAP

4   bridge program adapted to respectively generate the N Aspect files through use of data derived

5   from select records $[S]_1$, $[S]_2$, ..., $[S]_N$ of N datasets D_1, D_2, ..., D_N, respectively, and to transmit

6   the N Aspect files to the SAP business information system, said select records $[S]_1$, $[S]_2$, ..., $[S]_N$

7   having a common keygroup, wherein to generate the N Aspect files comprises, for i = 1, 2, ...,

8   and N:

9   to identify the select records $[S]_i$ in accordance with selection rules applied to D_i; and

10   to roll up the select records $[S]_i$ with respect to the common keygroup, wherein the rollup

11   records $[R]_i$ corresponding to $[S]_i$ have a rollup field and a quantity field, wherein the rollup field

12   stores a rollup keyvalue of the select records $[S]_i$, and wherein the quantity field stores the

13   number of select records of $[S]_i$ that have the same rollup keyvalue.

1   17. The system of claim 16, wherein a first dataset of the N datasets is a non-SAP-formatted

2   dataset.

1   18. The system of claim 16, wherein a first dataset of the N datasets is a SAP-formatted dataset.

1   19. The system of claim 16, wherein a first dataset of the N datasets and a second dataset of the N

2   datasets have different formats.

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1   20. The system of claim 16, wherein the datasets D_1, D_2, ..., D_N have formats F_1, F_2, ..., F_N,

2   respectively, wherein the at least one bridge program comprises N bridge programs P_1, P_2, ..., P_N

3   respectively keyed to the formats F_1, F_2, ..., F_N for respectively generating the Aspect files A_1, A_2,

4   ..., A_N.

1   21. The system of claim 16, wherein the datasets D_1, D_2, ..., D_N have formats F_1, F_2, ..., F_N,

2   respectively, and wherein the at least one bridge program consists of one bridge program having

3   logical paths L_1, L_2, ..., L_N respectively keyed to the formats F_1, F_2, ..., F_N for respectively

4   generating the Aspect files A_1, A_2, ..., A_N.

1   22. The system of claim 16, wherein the selection rules are the same for each of the N datasets.

1   23. The system of claim 16, wherein the SAP business information system comprises an SAP

2   Executive Information System (EIS).

1   24. The system of claim 16, wherein the report relates to procurement data, and wherein the

2   rollup records $[R]_1$, $[R]_2$, ..., $[R]_N$ include the procurement data.

1   25. The system of claim 24, wherein the procurement data is selected from the group consisting

2   of purchase order data, invoice data, and a combination thereof.

1   26. A method for generating a report by a reporting tool of a SAP business information system

2   using data included within an Aspect file, said method comprising executing a non-SAP bridge

3   program, said executing including:

4   generating the Aspect file through use of data derived from a dataset; and

5   transmitting the Aspect file to the SAP business information system.

1   27. The method of claim 26, wherein the dataset is a non-SAP-formatted dataset.

1   28. The method of claim 26, wherein the dataset is a SAP-formatted dataset.

1   29. The method of claim 26, wherein the SAP business information system comprises an SAP

2   Executive Information System (EIS).

1   30. A method for generating a report by a reporting tool of a SAP business information system

2   using data included within an Aspect file having rollup records, said method comprising:

3   providing a dataset having a keygroup; and

4   executing a non-SAP bridge program, including generating the Aspect file, said

5   generating comprising rolling up a portion of the dataset with respect to the keygroup, wherein

6   each rollup record has a rollup field and a quantity field, wherein the rollup field stores a rollup

7   keyvalue of the keygroup, and wherein the quantity field stores the number of dataset records that

8   have the same rollup keyvalue.

1   31. The method of claim 30, wherein generating the Aspect file includes causing the rollup

2   records in the generated Aspect file to be sorted with respect to the keygroup.

1   32. The method of claim 30, wherein the dataset is a non-SAP-formatted dataset.

1   33. The method of claim 30, wherein the dataset is a SAP-formatted dataset.

1   34. The method of claim 30, further comprising generating a trace file that includes a

2   representative rollup keyvalue of the keygroup and a pointer that points to a portion of the

3   dataset, said portion being correlated with the representative rollup keyvalue.

1   35. The method of claim 30, wherein the SAP business information system comprises an SAP

2   Executive Information System (EIS).

1   36. The method of claim 30, further comprising identifying select records of the dataset in

2   accordance with at least one selection rule applied to the dataset, said portion of the dataset

3   including the select records so identified.

1   37. The method of claim 36, said identifying including accepting as input a first date and a

2   second date, said first date earlier than said second date, said selection rules not permitting said

3   identifying to identity as a select record any record of the dataset having an effective date that is

4   earlier than the first date or later than the second date.

1   38. The method of claim 30, wherein the dataset is selected from the group consisting of a table,

2   a spreadsheet, and a combination thereof.

1   39. The method of claim 30, wherein the report relates to procurement data, and wherein the

2   rollup records include the procurement data.

1   40. The method of claim 39, wherein the procurement data is selected from the group consisting

2   of purchase order data, invoice data, and a combination thereof.

1   41. The method of claim 30, further comprising:

2   transmitting the Aspect file to the SAP business information system where the Aspect file

3   becomes a Temp file having the rollup records;

4   making a query to sum over the quantity field for a subset of the rollup records of the

5   Temp file, wherein the subset is determined by the query, and wherein the query is adapted to

6   being executed by a SAP module in the SAP computing environment; and

7   executing the query by the SAP module including returning a result of the query.

1   42. A method for generating a report by a reporting tool of a SAP business information system

2   using and combining data included within N Aspect files A_1, A_2, ..., A_N respectively having

3   rollup records $[R]_1$, $[R]_2$, ..., $[R]_N$, said N at least 2, said method comprising providing N datasets

4   D_1, D_2, ..., D_N having a common keygroup, and for $i = 1, 2, ...,$ and N executing a non-SAP

5   bridge program, including:

6   identifying select records $[S]_i$ of the dataset D_i, said identifying in accordance with

7   selection rules applied to D_i; and

8   rolling up the select records $[S]_i$ with respect to the common keygroup, wherein the rollup

9   records $[R]_i$ corresponding to $[S]_i$ have a rollup field and a quantity field, wherein the rollup field

10   stores a rollup keyvalue of the select records $[S]_i$, and wherein the quantity field stores the

11   number of select records of $[S]_i$ that have the same rollup keyvalue.

1   43. The method of claim 42, wherein a first dataset of the N datasets is a non-SAP-formatted

2   dataset.

1   44. The method of claim 42, wherein a first dataset of the N datasets is a SAP-formatted dataset.

1   45. The method of claim 42, wherein a first dataset of the N datasets and a second dataset of the

2   N datasets have different formats.

1   46. The method of claim 42, wherein the datasets D_1, D_2, ..., D_N have formats F_1, F_2, ..., F_N,

2   respectively, wherein the at least one bridge program comprises N bridge programs P_1, P_2, ..., P_N

3   respectively keyed to the formats F_1, F_2, ..., F_N for respectively generating the Aspect files A_1, A_2,

4   ..., A_N.

1   47. The method of claim 42, wherein the datasets D_1, D_2, ..., D_N have formats F_1, F_2, ..., F_N,

2   respectively, and wherein the at least one bridge program consists of one bridge program having

3   logical paths L_1, L_2, ..., L_N respectively keyed to the formats F_1, F_2, ..., F_N for respectively

4   generating the Aspect files A_1, A_2, ..., A_N.

1   48. The method of claim 42, wherein the selection rules are the same for each of the N datasets.

1   49. The method of claim 42, wherein the SAP business information system comprises an SAP

2   Executive Information System (EIS).

1   50. The method of claim 42, wherein the report relates to procurement data, and wherein the

2   rollup records $[R]_1$, $[R]_2$, ..., $[R]_N$ include the procurement data.

1   51. The method of claim 50, wherein the procurement data is selected from the group consisting

2   of purchase order data, invoice data, and a combination thereof.

1   52. The method of claim 42, wherein processing the Aspect file A_i further includes transmitting

2   the Aspect file A_i to the SAP business information system where the Aspect file A_i becomes a

3   Temp file T_i having the rollup records $[R]_i$, and wherein the method further comprises:

4   making a query to sum over the quantity field for a subset of the rollup records of the N

5   Temp files in composite, wherein the subset is determined by the query, and wherein the query is

6   adapted to being executed by a SAP module in the SAP computing environment; and

7   executing the query by the SAP module including returning a result of the query.

1 53. A computer program product, comprising a computer usable medium having a computer

2 readable program code embodied therein for generating a report by a reporting tool of a SAP

3 business information system using data included within an Aspect file, said program code

4 comprising a non-SAP bridge program adapted to generate the Aspect file through use of data

5 derived from a dataset and to transmit the Aspect file to the SAP business information system.

1   54. A computer program product, comprising a computer usable medium having a computer

2   readable program code embodied therein for generating a report by a reporting tool of a SAP

3   business information system using data included within an Aspect file having rollup records, said

4   program code comprising a non-SAP bridge program adapted to generate the Aspect file through

5   use of data derived from a dataset and to transmit the Aspect file to the SAP business information

6   system, said dataset having a keygroup, wherein to generate the Aspect file includes to roll up a

7   portion of the dataset with respect to the keygroup, wherein each rollup record has a rollup field

8   and a quantity field, wherein the rollup field stores a rollup keyvalue of the keygroup, and

9   wherein the quantity field stores the number of dataset records that have the same rollup

10   keyvalue.

1   55. A computer program product, comprising a computer usable medium having a computer

2   readable program code embodied therein for generating a report by a reporting tool of a SAP

3   business information system using and combining data included within N Aspect files A_1, A_2, ...,

4   A_N respectively having rollup records $[R]_1$, $[R]_2$, ..., $[R]_N$, said N at least 2, said program code

5   comprising at least one non-SAP bridge program adapted to respectively generate the N Aspect

6   files through use of data derived from select records $[S]_1$, $[S]_2$, ..., $[S]_N$ of N datasets D_1, D_2, ...,

7   D_N, respectively, and to transmit the N Aspect files to the SAP business information system, said

8   select records $[S]_1$, $[S]_2$, ..., $[S]_N$ having a common keygroup, wherein to generate the N Aspect

9   files comprises, for i = 1, 2, ..., and N:

10   to identify the select records $[S]_i$ in accordance with selection rules applied to D_i; and

11   to roll up the select records $[S]_i$ with respect to the common keygroup, wherein the rollup

12   records $[R]_i$ corresponding to $[S]_i$ have a rollup field and a quantity field, wherein the rollup field

13   stores a rollup keyvalue of the select records $[S]_i$, and wherein the quantity field stores the

14   number of select records of $[S]_i$ that have the same rollup keyvalue.